

tory of the ages-old practice of blood-letting and its modern application in the light of present day knowledge. Varying from the height of popularity to the depth of unpopularity, venesection has touched both extremes several times during the years covered by written history. Its value to medical science must lie somewhere between these extremes, and we believe Prof. Stern has rendered a good service to present day therapeutics by again bringing to our notice this valuable remedy and its indications. The technic is simple and easily acquired. The field of application is limited to certain diseases of the respiratory, circulatory and urinary systems, and, secondarily to the nervous system. In addition, this very useful procedure is described in its application to eclampsia and various poisonings. The value of this brochure seems to lie in its message to the present day practitioner that this ancient and much abused means of relieving human ailments has not lost its potency for good even though its field has been much restricted.

Professor Stern's work, though evidently written by an enthusiast, contains a great deal of interesting, if not practically useful, material and shows a careful and comprehensive study of literature, both lay and medical.

G. H. T.

LUSK ON NUTRITION.

The Yale Press has now in active preparation "The Fundamental Basis of Nutrition" by Graham Lusk. In this concise and readable manual Dr. Lusk discusses the historical study of nutrition and modern investigation in that field. He includes very important statistics showing how men in different occupations should be variously nourished and how the maximum number of proteins may be obtained at a minimum cost. The whole presents the principles of nutrition which our generation has done so much to discover and in a form to benefit the layman. As the author says: "It seems as though mankind had a right to a knowledge of the value of the foods which a bountiful Nature has provided for his use. Even among educated persons one may hear the grossest errors of judgment regarding the nutritive value of a hen's egg and few of those who eat in restaurants realize that the greater quota of nourishment which is brought to them lies not in the specific dish served but in the bread and butter which ostensibly is presented as a gift."

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

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(This Department will be pleased to supply information concerning products passed or rejected by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A., or submit queries to the Council when information is not available.)

Since publication of New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1914, and in addition to those previously reported, the following articles have been accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for inclusion with "New and Nonofficial Remedies":

SODIUM BIPHOSPHATE, Squibb.—This non-proprietary form of sodium acid phosphate has been accepted for inclusion with New and Nonofficial Remedies. E. R. Squibb & Sons, New York (Jour. A. M. A., May 2, 1914, p. 1401).

NORMAL HORSE SERUM with Chloroform as a Preservative.—Marketed in vials, each con-

taining 50 Cc. H. M. Alexander & Co., Marietta, Pa.

NORMAL HORSE SERUM without Preservative.—Marketed in vials, each containing 50 Cc. H. M. Alexander & Co., Marietta, Pa. (Jour. A. M. A., May 2, 1914, p. 1401).

EREPTON.—A meat product consisting largely of the amino-acids produced by the digestion of meat. Erepton is said to be useful in cases in which it is necessary to substitute a perfectly digested food for the product of natural digestion in cases of gastric or intestinal indigestion and for the purposes of rectal alimentation. Farbwerke-Hoechst Co., New York (Jour. A. M. A., May 16, 1914, p. 1559).

ACNE SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD. This is a sensitized acne vaccine. H. K. Mulford Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

COLI SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD.—This is a sensitized coli vaccine. H. K. Mulford Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

NEISSER SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD.—This is a sensitized gonococcic vaccine. H. K. Mulford Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

PNEUMO SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD.—This is a sensitized pneumococcic vaccine. H. K. Mulford Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

STAPHYLO-ACNE SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD.—This is a sensitized staphylo acne vaccine. H. K. Mulford Co., Philadelphia, Pa. (Jour. A. M. A., May 16, 1914, p. 1559).

NEW BORNVAL.—New bornval is borneol isovaleryl glycolate, the isovaleryl glycolic acid ester of borneol. Being more resistant to the gastric fluids than bornval, it passes the stomach unchanged and is said therefore to be less irritating than bornval. Its properties are similar to those of bornval and other valerian preparations. New bornval is an almost tasteless and odorless liquid, insoluble in water. It is sold also in the form of Bornval Pearls, each containing 4 minims of New Bornval. Riedel & Co., New York (Jour. A. M. A., May 23, 1914, p. 1637).

LIQUID PETROLEUM OR "RUSSIAN MINERAL OIL".—A report of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry points out that petroleum oil was used as a medicine by the ancients and that the product "liquid petrolatum" is now on the market under a host of proprietary names and is official in most pharmacopoeias. It was at one time used in the treatment of tuberculosis and as an adulterant of fats and oils on the assumption that it was assimilable. It is now known to pass the system unchanged and has recently been highly lauded as a particularly harmless laxative in the treatment of habitual constipation. As the U. S. P. definition of liquid petrolatum permits the use of rather widely varying products and as there is some difference of opinion whether a light or a heavy oil is preferable, the Council recommends that physicians desiring the water white, non-fluorescent (Russian) mineral oil use the term *petrolatum grave* or *paraffinum liquidum*, B. P. if the heavy product preferred by Sir F. Arbuthnot Lane is desired; and *petrolatum liquidum laeve* if the light variety is desired (Jour. A. M. A., May 30, 1914, p. 1742).

ANTIMENINGITIS SERUM.—The untoward or fatal effects sometimes following the use of antimeningitis serum are probably due to the toxic action of the preservative contained in it or to increased intracranial tension due to its administration. The technic of its employment should be improved rather than its use abandoned. The dangers which may arise from its use are not to be feared as much as the disease itself (Jour. A. M. A., May 23, 1914, p. 1661).

PITUITARY EXTRACT.—The use of pituitary